

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 04467 301801Z

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ACTION ORM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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INFO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

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E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: SREF, ICEM, ES

SUBJECT: US CONTRIBUTION TO LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM OF THE INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM)

REF: STATE 217677

1. SUMMARY. ICEM PROGRAM IN EL SALVADOR IS LIMITED AND GOES CON-
TRIBUTION TO IT REMAINS NEGLIGIBLE. NEVERTHELESS, IT HAS BEEN BENE-
FICIAL TO COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1969 AND IN FUTURE MAY PROVE
MORE SO. GOES RECENTLY INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN REGULAR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO ICEM. END SUMMARY

2. AS THE INITIATIVE OF THE SALVADORAN ASSOCIATION OF INDUS-
TRIALISTS (ASI), THE GOES BECAME A MEMBER OF ICEM IN 1969. THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FAILED TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT, HOWEVER,
APPARENTLY FOR FEAR THAT THE PROGRAM WOULD RESULT IN THE DISPLACE-
MENT OF SALVADORAN WORKERS BY FOREIGNERS. AS A RESULT, THE GOES
HAS NEVER CONTRIBUTED TO ICEM'S ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET, THOUGH
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PAGE 02 SAN SA 04467 301801Z

IT HAS MADE SMALL DONATIONS TO SEVERAL SPECIFIC PROJECTS.

NEVERTHELESS, THE PROGRAM, WHILE LIMITED (A TOTAL OF 137 PERSONS, INCLUDING DEPENDENTS, HAVE BEEN RELOCATED), HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL TO EL SALVADOR'S DEVELOPMENT. IT APPEARS TO BE WELL REGARDED BY THE BUSINESSMEN AND UNIVERSITIES WHO HAVE UTILIZED IT AS WELL AS THE GOES AS A WHOLE.

3. ICEM CLAIMS TO HAVE WON THE PLEDGE OF VICE PRES MAYORGA RIVAS AND FORMIN BORGONOVO POHL THAT THE GOES WOULD
A) RATIFY A NEW AGREEMENT, B) LIQUIDATE ITS ARREARS (SOME \$14,000 THROUGH 1972), AND C) BEGIN REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO ICEM.

4. FOLLOWING ARE RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED BY REFTEL:

A. ARE SKILLED MIGRANTS AND PROFESSIONALS STILL NEEDED? EL SALVADOR CLEARLY LACKS AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF TECHNICIANS AND PROFESSIONALS IN MANY AREAS. THE RECENTLY RE-OPENED UNIVERSITY OF EL SALVADOR, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS A PRESSING NEED FOR TRAINED TEACHERS IN MANY FIELDS, ESPECIALLY THE SCIENCES.

B. DO MOST ICEM MIGRANTS REMAIN? MOST UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS ARE CONTRACTED FOR ONLY TWO YEARS, BUT AT LEAST TWO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE REMAINED TO TEACH AT THE PRIVATE (CATHOLIC) JOSE SIMEON CANAS CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE TECHNICIANS WHO LEFT THE UNIVERSITY STILL ARE WORKING IN EL SALVADOR.

C. IS ICEM SUPPLEMENTING OTHER OUTSIDE SOURCES OF SKILLED WORKERS AND PROFESSIONALS AVAILABLE TO EL SALVADOR? IN ADDITION TO ICEM, VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AID, PEACE CORPS, AND IESC ALL PROVIDE TECHNICIANS AND PROFESSIONALS FOR LIMITED PERIODS.

D. HOW DOES GOES' CONTRIBUTION OF ICEM COMPARE WITH ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS? EL SALVADOR HISTORICALLY HAS CONTRIBUTED ONLY MINIMALLY TO THE VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH IT BELONGS. THE 1969 CONFLICT WITH HONDURAS AND THE RESULTING ACTIVITIES OF THE OAS ONLY STRENGTHENED THE GOES' RELUCTANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS UNLESS IT PERCEIVES SOME CONCRETE BENEFIT FOR EL SALVADOR.

E. DOES THE LOW LEVEL OF GOES' CONTRIBUTION INDICATE A LACK OF INTEREST? MORE LIKELY IT REFLECTS A LACK OF GOVT RESOURCES AS WELL AS BIAS AGAINST INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.
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PAGE 03 SAN SA 04467 301801Z

IF THE ICEM HAS IN FACT SUCCEEDED IN WINNING A COMMITMENT FROM THE GOES TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTIONS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE PROGRAM'S SUCCESS HAS STIMULATED GREATER GOES INTEREST IN IT.

F. SHOULD THE PROGRAM BE EXPANDED? YES.

G. WOULD PROGRAM REDUCTION HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS? ICEM IS REPRESENTED HERE BY ONE SALVADOREAN CITIZEN WITH A \$15,000 ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET. REDUCTION OF THE PROGRAM AS A WHOLE MIGHT MEAN ITS DEMISE IN EL SALVADOR AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN BOTH

GOES SUPPORT AND DEMANDS FOR ITS SERVICES SEEM TO BE INCREASING.
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